

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 01346 280007Z  
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-07 CU-04 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 /037 W

-----066869 281946Z /64

R 271510Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7218

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DEPT PASS HEW FISCHER

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: TBIO, TPHY, SCUL  
SUBJECT: RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA: TREATMENT IN THE USSR

1. TONY SCHIBLEY, US CITIZEN WHO HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED TREATMENT FOR RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA AT THE HELMHOLTZ INSTITUTE, INFORMED US THAT STAFFERS AT THE HELMHOLTZ INSTITUTE TOLD HIM THAT THE DRUG USED THERE TO TREAT RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA WOULD BE AVAILABLE WITHIN THE USSR IN ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS. MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS CONFIRMED TO US THAT PLANS ARE UNDERWAY TO MAKE THE DRUG AVAILABLE ON A PRESCRIPTION BASIS, BUT THEY DID NOT KNOW WHEN FIRST AMOUNTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR GENERAL USE. EVENING NEWS PROGRAM ALSO RAN SHORT PIECE ON HELMHOLTZ INSTITUTE LAST WEEK, HIGHLIGHTING THE NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS WHO ARE TREATED THERE AND NOTING THAT THE MEDICATION WOULD BE AVAILABLE SOMETIME THIS YEAR. PROGRAM INCLUDED INTERVIEW WITH BRITISH WOMAN BEING TREATED FOR RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA AT THE HELMHOLTZ INSTITUTE, BUT DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION ANY OF THE AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN TREATED THERE.

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2. DURING LUNCHEON ON JANUARY 27 MINISTER OF HEALTH PETROVSKY CONFIRMED TO SICOUS THAT RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA DRUG WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON A WIDER BASIS THIS YEAR. PETROVSKIY COMMENTED THAT HE VIEWED HELMHOLTZ TREATMENT AS USEFUL IN ARRESTING PROGRESS OF RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA BUT HE DID NOT BELIEVE IT REPRESENTED A CURE FOR THE DISEASE.

MATLOCK

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEDICAL CARE  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MOSCOW01346  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780043-0230  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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